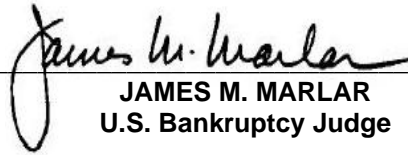


SIGNED.



Dated: April 22, 2008

  
JAMES M. MARLAR  
U.S. Bankruptcy Judge

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

In re: ) Chapter 11  
FIRST MAGNUS FINANCIAL )  
CORPORATION, ) No. 4:07-bk-01578-JMM  
Debtor. ) **MEMORANDUM DECISION**

The Debtor has asked this court to bar the proof of claim filed by WNS, Inc., as untimely. The court set a bar date of January 3, 2008. WNS filed its proof of claim one day late, on January 4, 2008.

WNS argues that its attorney, Nancy March, misunderstood the discussion held between her and the court at a hearing held on December 7, 2007, and wherein she felt that her client had until January 7, 2008 within which to file a claim. Thus, in her view, the January 4 filing was early. The transcript of December 7, 2007, does allow for that interpretation. Additionally, due to Ms. March's long-standing exemplary reputation and ethical professionalism in practice before this court over the last 14 years, the court easily finds her explanation to be credible. This case does not present a matter of "neglect," but instead only a matter of misunderstanding.

Moreover, the estate is not shown to have suffered any prejudice due to the late filing. WNS has been actively involved in the case since the outset, and through various pleadings and/or arguments, has made it known that it believes itself to hold a claim alleged to be in the millions of dollars. As such, WNS, even had it not filed a proof of claim, could have argued

1 that its claim was entitled to recognition as an "informal" proof of claim. *See, e.g., In re Holm*, 931  
2 F.2d 620, 622 (9th Cir. 1991); *In re Wheatfield Business Park, LLC*, 308 B.R. 463, 466-67 (9th Cir.  
3 BAP 2004). Happily, the case did not develop to this point.

4 To the extent that the court is required to find excusable neglect under FED. R. BANKR.  
5 P. 9006(b)(1), the court so finds. Ms. March's misunderstanding was understandable, explainable  
6 and not irresponsible.

7 The relevant cases support this decision. The four factors to be considered by the  
8 court in deciding this issue are:

9  
10 1) the danger of prejudice to the opposing party; 2) the length of  
11 the delay and its potential impact on judicial proceedings; 3) the  
12 reason for the delay, including whether it was within the  
reasonable control of the movant, and 4) whether the movant  
acted in good faith.

13 *Pioneer Inv. Servs. Co. v. Brunswick Assocs. Ltd. P'ship*, 507 U.S. 380, 395, 113 S.Ct. 1489, 1498,  
14 123 L.Ed.2d 74 (1993); *Pincay v. Andrews*, 389 F.3d 853, 860 (9th Cir. 2004), *cert. den.*, 544 U.S.  
15 961, 125 S.Ct. 1726, 161 L.Ed.2d 602 (2005); *In re Merritt*, 2008 WL 559694 at \*3 & n.6 (Bankr.  
16 D. Or. 2008). Weighing each of the factors and applying them to the facts, the court concludes that  
17 it would be unjust to disallow the claim solely on the basis that it was filed one day late.

18 Additionally, since the missed deadline was based on a court order, this court also has  
19 the authority "to use its own discretion in the enforcement of deadlines set in its own orders."  
20 *Thompson v. United States*, 202 B.R. 466, 467 (S.D. Ind. 1996).

21 A separate order will be entered which denies the Debtor's request to disallow the  
22 WNS claim on the basis of untimeliness.

23  
24 DATED AND SIGNED ABOVE.  
25  
26  
27  
28

COPIES served as indicated below  
on the date signed above:

John R. Clemency  
Todd A. Burgess  
Lawrence J. Rosenfeld  
Garland A. Brown, Jr.  
Greenberg Traurig, LLP  
2375 E. Camelback Rd., Suite 700  
Phoenix, AZ 85016  
Attorneys for Debtor

(clemencyj@gtlaw.com)  
(burgessst@gtlaw.com)  
(rosenfeldl@gtlaw.com)  
(browng@gtlaw.com)

Nancy J. March  
DeConcini McDonald Yetwin & Lacy, P.C.  
2525 E. Broadway Blvd., #200  
Tucson, AZ 85716  
Attorneys for WNS North America, Inc.

(nmarch@dmyl.com)

Robert E. Michael  
Robert E. Michael & Associates, PLLC  
950 Third Ave., Suite 2500  
New York, NY 10022  
Attorneys for WNS North America, Inc.

(robert.e.michael.esq@gmail.com)

Michael D. Warner  
Rachel R Obaldo  
Warner Stevens, L.L.P.  
301 Commerce St., Suite 1700  
Fort Worth, TX 76102  
Attorneys for Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors

(mwarner@warnerstevens.com)  
(robaldo@warnerstevens.com)

Renee Sandler Shamblin  
Office of the U.S. Trustee  
230 N. First Ave., Suite 204  
Phoenix, AZ 85003-1706

(renee.s.shamblin@usdoj.gov)

By M.B. Thompson  
Judicial Assistant

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7 **IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT**  
8 **FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**  
9

10 In re: ) Chapter 11  
11 FIRST MAGNUS FINANCIAL )  
12 CORPORATION, ) No. 4:07-bk-01578-JMM  
13 \_\_\_\_\_ ) **ORDER**  
14 Debtor. )

14 Based on the Memorandum Decision issued simultaneously herewith,  
15 IT IS ORDERED DENYING the Debtor's request to disallow the WNS claim  
16 (Dkt. #1192) on the basis of untimeliness.

17  
18 DATED AND SIGNED ABOVE.  
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Todd A. Burgess  
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Greenberg Traurig, LLP  
2375 E. Camelback Rd., Suite 700  
Phoenix, AZ 85016  
Attorneys for Debtor

(clemencyj@gtlaw.com)  
(burgessst@gtlaw.com)  
(rosenfeldl@gtlaw.com)  
(browng@gtlaw.com)

Nancy J. March  
DeConcini McDonald Yetwin & Lacy, P.C.  
2525 E. Broadway Blvd., #200  
Tucson, AZ 85716  
Attorneys for WNS North America, Inc.

(nmarch@dmyl.com)

Robert E. Michael  
Robert E. Michael & Associates, PLLC  
950 Third Ave., Suite 2500  
New York, NY 10022  
Attorneys for WNS North America, Inc.

(robert.e.michael.esq@gmail.com)

Michael D. Warner  
Rachel R Obaldo  
Warner Stevens, L.L.P.  
301 Commerce St., Suite 1700  
Fort Worth, TX 76102  
Attorneys for Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors

(mwarner@warnerstevens.com)  
(robaldo@warnerstevens.com)

Renee Sandler Shamblin  
Office of the U.S. Trustee  
230 N. First Ave., Suite 204  
Phoenix, AZ 85003-1706

(renee.s.shamblin@usdoj.gov)

By M.B. Thompson  
Judicial Assistant